

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Good morning, everybody; good morning, America. How are you? I am showing my age a little bit.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is always great to be an American, and it is always a great time in America because we have hope and vision for the future, and I am happy to report to you that Congress and the Obama administration have departed on a new course of action—no more voodoo economics, no more trickle-down economics. These are failed policies, and it is time for something new.

Whenever something new is on the table, there are always those who, instead of appreciating being Americans, they complain and don't add anything positive to the discussion.

But despite the obstacles that we confront, we will continue down this road. And, indeed, America will continue to experience morning in America.

AIG, BONUSES, AND THE FRENCH

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, AIG took bailout money and then gave millions to executives in bonuses. Now Congress is bent out of shape about it, and rightfully so. But the truth is in the last stimulus bill that Congress quickly passed with little or no debate was an attached amendment to allow AIG to do exactly what they did—give out high-dollar bonuses.

Congress is responsible for this irresponsible spending and must deal with the consequences. To make matters worse, AIG gave bailout money to foreign banks, like in France. The French are the same people who vilify the United States, blame the world's problems on us, and have a disdain for everything American.

Mr. Speaker, I think the U.S. has bailed out France enough. We helped save France in World War I, saved them again in World War II, and took over in Vietnam after they failed there—but with little or no gratitude from the French.

And AIG also gave billions to German and English banks. We can't afford to give away taxpayer money and reward failure while making working Americans pay for all of this nonsense. "No" to more bailouts, foreign or domestic.

And that's just the way it is.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. SESTAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words about Brain Awareness Week. This is the week that the Society of Neuroscience members spread throughout America to speak about the exciting wonders of the mind. But in addition, like up in my district at

Franklin Institute, they will speak about not only neuroscience, but how do we take care of those patients who suffer damage.

I speak about this because as a veteran, as the Pentagon announced early this month, 360,000 of those 1.8 million members of our society who went to Iraq or Afghanistan have returned with a brain injury. The vast majority of them have healed and will heal, except for about 90,000 who will have lasting damage. That's why this week is so important. While we have a tendency to take care of these patients, there is much more to be done in the treatment of their damage with the discovery of neurostem cells and the possibility of stem transplants to repair the damage.

Again, I commend the Society of Neuroscience, particularly in this area of our returning veterans to help them improve their quality of life.

BUDGET TAXES TOO MUCH

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, this is budget time again, and this budget proposed by the administration has some very major flaws in it. It creates a greater tax burden on the American people, among other things. The budget calls for a \$637 billion tax increase for the majority of small businesses that pay taxes as individuals.

The cap-and-trade but cap-and-tax program, will increase taxes conservatively by \$646 billion on energy to every household in America. These households can expect to pay more than \$3,000 a year extra on their utility bills. This is money taken directly out of the pockets of working families struggling to pay bills each month.

This budget also caps the value of itemized deductions for those with higher incomes and really middle-class incomes, reducing charitable giving by \$9 billion a year which will devastate charities.

Finally, this budget reinstates the death tax which has been found to lower overall employment by \$1.5 million.

This budget spends too much, wastes too much, and taxes too much.

NOT SO FAST ON THE AIG BONUSES

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, not quite so fast on the AIG bonuses. The weasels who drove that company into the ground may not even be entitled to the bonuses in their contract based on their performance. And a failed company rescued from bankruptcy by the United States Government may not be obligated to pay them anyway.

Thankfully, there is also the power of the tax code. Let's return to the Eisen-

hower tax rates of 90 percent for people who receive bonuses from companies that we already own 50 percent or more of with taxpayer money.

For years the tax code around here has been tortured to reward people who need tax cuts absolutely the least. Hopefully we can use it this time to impose a little tax justice.

WHERE DOES ALL OF THE MONEY COME FROM?

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents recently said to me, "I'm tired of the government spending money I have not made yet for programs I don't want." And my constituents are right on this.

On top of the trillions that have already been spent, the President's budget is proposing doubling Federal spending by the year 2019. My constituents are saying, "How are we going to pay for this?"

Well, as we have heard this morning, there is the tax-and-cap scheme which is \$646 billion and is going to cost every American family an additional \$3,128 per year out of their household budget.

There is also the small-business taxes, \$637 billion of new small-business taxes. It is going to wipe out any kind of tax reduction that would have gone to the 95 percent of working Americans.

So the question becomes: Where does all of this money come from? Well, we know that the Democrat leadership is going to borrow too much, they are going to tax too much, and they are going to spend too much of the taxpayers' money.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, with passage of the long-overdue SCHIP bill, Congress and the President expanded health care coverage to 4 million American children who were previously uncovered. This single step did more to improve our health care system in one day than we had seen in 8 years. But there is still more to be done.

Every individual, every family, and every business in America struggles every day with health care costs. Their inability to afford coverage and the increased cost for goods and services as a result of health care costs for their business, this issue affects everybody in every way.

But for the first time, the President and Congress plan to consider health care reform as part of the budget process so we can accurately account for the true costs of doing health care reform and of not doing health care reform, which would be the price of inaction.